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August 14, 1997

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Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

NYSERNet
125 Elwood Davis Road
Syracuse, NY 13212-4311
www.nysernet.org

RE: CC: Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, DA 97-1561

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

NYSERNet, Inc., a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 network research organization, on behalf of itself, our affiliated company, AppliedTheory Communications, and our member institutions, believes we can play a significant role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Schools and Libraries Corporation. Our organization offers a unique and important perspective on the implementation and use of Internet technologies in the educational community. From its creation in 1984, NYSERNet has played the leadership role in designing and building Internet capabilities for New York State's higher education community. This experience has also been translated into a number of important activities in support of k-12 schools and libraries during the past decade to ensure their ability to use this important technology.

As a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 company, one of our stated objectives is to act as an expert information resource for schools, libraries and museums on networking. NYSERNet has been an active participant in the New York State Public Service Commission's School and Library Committee and has been invited to participate on the New York State Education Department's Technology Implementation Committee. We currently maintain an online resource <http://nysernet.org/TIPS> to provide information on a range of technology related issues impacting schools and libraries including the Universal Service Fund.

Prior to creating a separate for profit affiliate, AppliedTheory Communications, NYSERNet built and operated a substantial IP network throughout New York State. In fact this was the first regional network in the country when originally established in 1987. As part of our efforts to serve the educational community in the development years of the Internet, NYSERNet established points of presence in a number of smaller cities in upstate New York. By pushing the network into these areas we enabled connectivity to the network by schools and libraries in areas which would not otherwise have been served. NYSERNet has also undertaken grant programs to schools across the state and worked closely with k-12 schools and various Boards of Cooperative Educational Centers to develop training programs for faculty.

We continue to work with k-12 and libraries to identify and test new solutions for bringing affordable network solutions to the classroom. For example, NYSERNet has recently been awarded a National Science Foundation grant for a trial program which will allow schools in the Rochester, New York area to connect to the Internet using wireless technology.

Currently, AppliedTheory Communications operates and maintains a statewide IP network. This network provides service not only to a significant portion of New York State's higher education institutions but a large number of k-12 schools and libraries as well. AppliedTheory

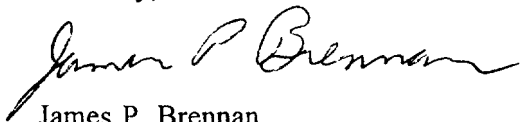
take significant pride in its ability to provide an IP network service designed and built for research and university users, to k-12 schools and libraries across New York State.

Clearly the momentum to bring the benefits of technology to the educational community has increased significantly at both the state and national level. The implementation of the Universal Service Fund for Schools and Libraries will have a dramatic impact on this process. NYSERNet, we believe, is uniquely positioned to assist the Commission in this effort. We bring to the School and Library Corporation over a decade's experience in connecting educational institutions to the Internet. Our Board of Directors is comprised primarily of representatives from colleges and universities from across New York State. We also bring an in-depth understanding of the requirements and challenges of Internet Service Providers based on our experience as an ISP and that of our affiliated company.

NYSERNet's participation on the School and Libraries Board brings with it a substantial community interested in the successful implementation of the Universal Services Fund. This community includes our twenty two member institutions (attachment A) from higher education institutions, New York State government and research institutions. We can also draw upon our affiliated company for its insights and counsel regarding the impact of the program upon service providers. Finally, through our ongoing involvement with New York State's efforts to implement its program, we are working closely with a diverse group of organizations from the education, library, government and commercial sectors to make this program a success at the State level as well.

I hope that the information provided above conveys to you the importance which NYSERNet places on the successful implementation of technology in our education system and our commitment to this process. We believe that NYSERNet can play a significant and beneficial role on the School and Library Corporation's Board of Directors and hope that you agree. I look forward to hearing from you regarding our request to participate and am available to answer any questions you may have at your convenience.

Sincerely,



James P. Brennan
Associate Director
Government Services
NYSERNet, Inc.
385 Jordan Road
Troy, NY 12180-3590

/Jpb
Attachment

cc: Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission ✓

Commissioner Hundt

August 14, 1997

Attachment A
NYSERNet, Inc.
Board of Director Institutions

- Alfred University
- Brookhaven National Laboratory
- City University of New York
- Clarkson University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Eastman Kodak
- Hofstra University
- Marist College
- New York Public Library
- New York University
- NYNEX Science & Technology, Inc.
- Polytechnic University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- The Rockefeller University
- State University of New York at Albany
- State University of New York at Binghamton
- State University of New York at Buffalo
- State University of New York at Stony Brook
- Syracuse University
- University of Rochester

Ex-Officio

New York State Education Department
State University of New York, Central Administration